



King County

Department of Development and Environmental Services

Determination Of NonSignificance Adoption of Existing Environmental Documents for

Sensitive Areas Ordinance Revisions (SEPA File No. E97E0052)

Date of Issuance: June 30, 1998

Project: This proposal is a non-project action that applies to all unincorporated King County. This proposed ordinance revises King County's regulations for permitted activities in and alterations to designated sensitive areas. Sensitive Areas regulations are contained in KCC21A.24 and 21Aa.06. Changes to the Sensitive Areas Ordinance (SAO) trigger changes in other King County Codes including Titles 9, 13, 16, 20, 23, and 27A. The proposed changes are consistent with the State Growth Management Act (GMA) and King County Comprehensive Plan (KCCP) requirements to protect critical areas. Substantive changes to the SAO are in the areas of: channel migrations, coal mine hazards; sensitive areas designation review, violations, mitigation and monitoring, and, a new section on restoration and enforcement.

Location: Countywide

King County Permits: Adoption of Ordinance by the Metropolitan King County Council

SEPA Contact: Marilyn Cox, Environmental Planner, (206) 296-7154

County Contact: Jeff Stern, Project Manager, DDES, (206) 296-7229
900 Oakesdale Avenue, SW
Renton, WA 98055-1255

Proponent: Ron Sims, King County Executive
King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Zoning: Multiple Zoning
Community Plan: Multiple Community Plans
Drainage Subbasin: Multiple Drainage Basins
Section/Township/Range: Multiple STRs

Notes:

A. This finding is based on review of the Environmental checklist dated April 21, 1998, a Summary of Proposed Revisions to King County Code 21A.24 Sensitive Areas, and other documents in the file.

B. Major changes in this proposal include the following: 1) increased protections when endangered or threatened species or state-listed priority species or habitats are present in the sensitive area or buffer (additional buffers are needed when habitats or species of rare occurrence are found); 2) clarification of when salmonids are expected in streams per the State's streams definition under the Forest Practices Act; 3) increased amount of habitat required to be replaced or improved when a

proposal impacts sensitive areas; 4) regulation of pesticides and other hazardous substances in sensitive areas that contain water features or that could be damaged from the loss of vegetation.

Environmental Review Process

In compliance with the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), WAC 197-11-340, several existing environmental documents were adopted as part of the Determination of Nonsignificance to meet King County's environmental review needs for the current proposal.

Titles and Descriptions of Documents Being Adopted

King County Department of Development and Environmental Services, EIS Addendum: King County Comprehensive Plan Development Regulations. Prepared by Huckell/Weinman Associates, Inc., December 1994, 25 pages and Appendix A.

King County Parks, Planning and Resources Department, King County Comprehensive Plan Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement, Executive Proposed Plan. Prepared by Huckell/Weinman Associates, Inc., June 1994, 309 pages and Appendices A-F.

King County Parks, Planning and Resources Department King County Comprehensive Plan Final Supplementary Environmental Impact Statement. Prepared by Huckell/Weinman Associates, Inc., November 1994, 143 pages and Written Comments from Agencies, Organizations and Individuals.

King County Parks, Planning and Resources Department, Sensitive Areas Ordinance. August 29, 1990, 101 pages.

Description of Documents Being Adopted

The King County Comprehensive Plan (KCCP) Supplemental EISs analyze the environmental impacts of planning policies and land use designations adopted by the King County Council in 1994. The KCCP policies provide the basis for the sensitive areas regulations. The EIS Addendum of the development regulations provides additional information about the regulations that were adopted to implement the KCCP.

The documents are available to be read at:

Department of Development and Environmental Services
King County Land Use Services Division
900 Oakesdale Avenue Southwest
Renton, WA 98055-1219

Office hours at DDES are Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., except Wednesday, 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. In addition, the documents being adopted also are available for review in local King County libraries.

Threshold Determination

The responsible official finds that the above-described proposal does not pose a probable significant adverse impact to the environment.

This finding is made pursuant to RCW 43.21C, KCC 20.44 and WAC 197-11 after reviewing the environmental checklist and other information on file with the lead agency and considering mitigation measures which the agency or the applicant will implement as part of the proposal. The responsible official finds this information reasonably sufficient to evaluate the environmental impact of this proposal.

Comments and Appeals

There is no administrative appeal of this threshold determination. Written comments on the proposed ordinance may be addressed to the Department of Development and Environmental Services (DDES) at the address written below. Please reference the file number when correspondence.

Address for comment:

DDES
King Count Land Use Services Division
900 Oakesdale Avenue, SW
Renton, Wa 98055-1219
ATTN: Jeff Stern

Responsible Official:

Original signed

6-25-98

Marilyn E. Cox, Planning Supervisor
Current Planning Section
Land Use Services Division

Date

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15 June 1998